



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------	------------------

10/089,504

07/29/2002

Peter Brune

RBL0087

9383

7590

06/02/2006

Baker & Daniels
Suite 800
111 East Wanev Street
Fort Wayne, IN 46802

EXAMINER

KARMIS, STEFANOS

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3624

DATE MAILED: 06/02/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

DETAILED ACTION

1. The following communication is in response to Applicant's amendment filed 20 March 2006.

Status of Claims

2. Claims 1-5, 8-13 and 19-21 are previously presented. Claims 6, 7 and 14-18 are canceled. Therefore claims 1-5, 8-13 and 19-21 are currently pending.

Priority

3. Acknowledgment is made of applicant's claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d).

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments filed 06 October 2005 with respect to the rejection of claims 1-5, 8-13 and 9-21 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive as discussed below.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

7. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

8. Claims 1-5, 8-13 and 19-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over O'Neil (hereinafter O'Neil) U.S. Patent 6,226,364 in view of Langseth et al. (hereinafter Langseth) U.S. Patent 6,694,316.

Claims 1-5, 8-13 and 19-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as stated in the previous office action, mailed 19 May 2005. In the response filed 06 October 2005, Applicant asserts that O'Neil teaches prepaid accounts or debit banks accounts rather than a micropayment account, which is typically used for holding small amounts of money. The Examiner has reviewed Applicant's specification, in which Applicant states that a micropayment account "is generally prepaid" (page 3, paragraph 0023). Applicant also states that the micropayment account is maintained as a sub-account of an actual at a bank, and that is can be prepaid or postpaid (page 2, paragraph 0016). The prepaid accounts taught by O'Neil conform with the definition of a micropayment account as discussed by the Applicant in the specification because

Art Unit: 3624

they are prepaid and can be linked to actual bank accounts (column 8, lines 1-43). Therefore claims 1-5, 8-13 and 19-21 stand rejected and Applicant's request for allowance is respectfully declined.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Stefano Karmis whose telephone number is (571) 272-6744. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F: 8-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Vincent Millin can be reached on (571) 272-6747. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Respectfully Submitted
Stefano Karmis
30 May 2006



HANI M. KAZIMI
PRIMARY EXAMINER